



NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release
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LAFAYETTE MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . **LARRY PELTIER**, age 39, from Lafayette, Louisiana, was sentenced today to **120 months (10 years) imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release** by United States District Judge Rebecca Doherty for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, announced U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington and Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. PELTIER was indicted in March 2004 and pled guilty in August 2004.

PELTIER was convicted in the 15th Judicial District of distribution of cocaine in July 1991, sentenced to ten years of hard labor. It is unlawful for a convicted felon to possess firearms and/or ammunition.

Agents of the Lafayette Metro Narcotics executed a search warrant at

PELTIER's residence in June 2003. During the search, agents discovered a Winchester Model 1400 12-gauge shotgun. PELTIER admitted to possessing the shotgun for personal protection. PELTIER was aware that as a convicted felon, he was prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by

the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lafayette Metro Narcotics. Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Clemons is prosecuting the case.

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Donald W. Washington at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

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